

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multimedia retrieval method, comprising:
 - determining a descriptor weight in accordance with a combination of descriptors, from a plurality of descriptors for a query;
 - associating the descriptor weight to a multimedia descriptor; and
 - retrieving a multimedia object based on a selected weight corresponding to the combination of descriptors for the query.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the descriptor weight is accomplished through a prior retrieval result of retrieving images, using the combination of descriptors, or a feedback given by a user regarding a similar object in connection with group data on any similar objects defined in advance.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein descriptors that identify increasing similarity between the similar objects are provided increasingly higher descriptor weights.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - measuring a similarity on the similar object, for which the user gave feedback, or the prior retrieval result using every descriptor weight included in the multimedia descriptor; and

retrieving the multimedia object based on the selected weight outputting a highest similarity.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein if a user selects a particular descriptor for the retrieval, only the descriptor weight of the particular descriptor selected, from the combination of descriptors included in the multimedia descriptor, is used for the retrieval.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein if a user designates a query object and a retrieval object, only the combination of descriptors corresponding with the retrieval object and the query object is used for the retrieval.

7. A multimedia retrieval method, comprising:
determining a descriptor weight in accordance with a viewpoint of a query for the multimedia retrieval;
associating the descriptor weight to a multimedia descriptor; and
retrieving a multimedia object based on a selected weight corresponding to the viewpoint of the query, among other descriptor weights included in the multimedia descriptor.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein determining the descriptor weight is accomplished through a prior retrieval result from retrieving images or feedback given by a user regarding a similar object, in connection with group data on any similar objects defined in advance

9. The method of claim 8, wherein a descriptor that identifies increasing similarity between the similar objects is provided a higher descriptor weight.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

measuring a similarity on the similar object, for which the user gave feedback, or the prior retrieval result using every descriptor weight included in the multimedia descriptor; and retrieving the multimedia object based on the selected weight outputting a highest similarity.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

displaying a particular viewpoint of the query, among other viewpoints of the query; and retrieving the multimedia object based on the particular viewpoint of the query selected by a user.

12. A multiweight generating method, comprising:

obtaining a weight value representing an importance of a descriptor included in a multimedia object; and obtaining data on a viewpoint of a query for obtaining the weight value.

13. A multiweight generating method, comprising:

obtaining a weight value representing an importance of a descriptor included in a multimedia object; and

obtaining data corresponding to the descriptor that indicates what the descriptor intends to describe.

14. A multimedia retrieval medium, comprising:

a plurality of descriptors that identify a multimedia object, for retrieval from a multimedia source; and

a data feature containing an optimum weight data in accordance with each combination of descriptors for a query.

15. The medium of claim 14, wherein the combination of descriptors and the optimum weights are different, depending on a viewpoint of the query.

16. A multimedia retrieval method, comprising:

determining a descriptor weight for each of a plurality of descriptors used in a first combination to form a multimedia descriptor query; and

retrieving a group of first multimedia objects based on the descriptor weights corresponding to the first combination of descriptors.

17. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 16, further comprising:
determining the descriptor weight for each of a plurality of descriptors used in a second combination to form a subsequent multimedia descriptor query; and
retrieving a group of second multimedia objects based on the descriptor weights corresponding to the second combination of descriptors, wherein
the group of second multimedia objects has a higher correlation to a desired multimedia object than the group of first multimedia objects.

18. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 17, wherein:
the descriptor weights for the plurality of descriptors used in the second combination distinguish a particular multimedia object selected from the group of first multimedia objects from all other multimedia objects within the group of first multimedia objects.

19. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 17, wherein:
the descriptor weights for the plurality of descriptors used in the second combination distinguish a particular multimedia feature selected from a group of features associated with the group of first multimedia objects from all other multimedia objects within the group of first multimedia objects.

20. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 18, further comprising:

- (a) replacing the first combination of descriptors and associated descriptor weights with the second combination of descriptors and associated descriptor weights;
- (b) replacing the group of first multimedia objects with the group of second multimedia objects;
- (c) determining the descriptor weight for each of the plurality of descriptors used in a new determination of the second combination to form the subsequent multimedia descriptor query, based on the particular multimedia object selected by a user from the group of first multimedia objects; and
- (d) retrieving the group of second multimedia objects based on the descriptor weights corresponding to the second combination of descriptors; and

repeating steps (a) through (d) in sequence until the group of second multimedia objects reaches a predetermined level of correlation with a desired multimedia object.

21. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 19, further comprising:

- (a) replacing the first combination of descriptors and associated descriptor weights with the second combination of descriptors and associated descriptor weights;
- (b) replacing the group of first multimedia objects with the group of second multimedia objects;
- (c) determining the descriptor weight for each of the plurality of descriptors used in a new determination of the second combination to form the subsequent multimedia descriptor

query, based on the particular multimedia feature selected by a user from the group of first multimedia objects; and

(d) retrieving the group of second multimedia objects based on the descriptor weights corresponding to the second combination of descriptors; and
repeating steps (a) through (d) in sequence until the group of second multimedia objects reaches a predetermined level of correlation with a desired multimedia object.

22. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 19, wherein:

the group of features associated with the group of first multimedia objects is identified by a tabulation of textual descriptions of the features.

23. The multimedia retrieval method of claim 19, wherein:

the group of features associated with the group of first multimedia objects is identified by a tabulation of mathematical representations of the features.